

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please enter the substitute specification submitted herewith in accordance with 37 CFR §1.125(b). Applicants assert that the substitute specification includes no new matter. The specification has been modified to correct minor typographical errors. In addition to the clean copy, a marked up copy of the substitute specification indicating the matter added and deleted is attached hereto.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

E1 4. (Thrice Amended) A method of preparing a substantially RNA-free cellular component, comprising culturing

- (a) cells producing a cellular component; and
- (b) cells producing an RNase; wherein the cells producing said RNase are microbial;

lysing said cells producing said cellular component and said cells producing said RNase to produce a combined cell lysate, wherein said cells producing said RNase produce said RNase in an amount sufficient to degrade substantially all of the RNA present in said combined cell lysate, incubating said combined cell lysate to allow said RNase to digest said RNA, and isolating said cellular component.

E2 5. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the cells producing the cellular component are the same cells that produce the RNase.

E3 6. (Thrice Amended) A method of preparing a substantially RNA-free cellular component, comprising culturing cells producing a cellular component and cells producing an RNase, wherein the cells producing said RNase are microbial and wherein the cellular component and the RNase are not produced by the same cells, lysing said cells to produce a combined cell lysate, wherein said cells producing an RNase produce RNase in an amount sufficient to degrade substantially all of the RNA